



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, MI

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The tribe also was selected to receive additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. The tribe's existing reservation consists of two settlements in Custer and Eden Townships, and roughly 70,000 acres located in southern Manistee County, Michigan. For this Pilot, the tribe has targeted the 32-acre Manistee Forge Corporation East Lake plant site, which the tribe purchased in 1998 after conducting a partial environmental assessment. That assessment found soil contamination and indicated the potential presence of a mixture of metals, petroleum products, and lubricants as well as chemicals associated with the production of salt and bromide products. In the past century, the site has been used for a number of industrial purposes, including a lumber mill, salt and chemical operations, metal forging, hydraulic lift manufacturing, and fiberglass fabrication.

The economic base of the community eroded with closure and relocation of the lumbering and salt mining industries. About 1,200 of the 2,728-member Little River Band currently reside in the local area. Approximately 41 percent of local tribe members live in households with incomes below the poverty rate and about 60 percent of all tribe members are unemployed. In response to the economic decline of the area, the tribe has expanded local employment opportunities, but new housing and jobs that the redeveloped brownfields site would provide are needed as more tribal members return to the reservation.

OBJECTIVES

The tribe's objective is to assess the Manistee Forge site so that it can be transformed into a site for housing constructed for tribal families and a marina. The large manufacturing building already on the site will be used to construct manufactured homes. The tribe will also assess

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Little River Band of
Ottawa Indians,
Michigan*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$200,000

Greenspace: \$50,000

Profile: The Pilot targets a former industrial site for redevelopment into housing for tribal members, a marina, and a manufactured home construction business.

Contacts:

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians	Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA Region 5
(231) 398-6842	(312) 353-0123

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

an 85-acre parcel for use as a park and recreational land. As part of this objective, the Pilot will define the contamination at the target sites and develop cleanup and reuse plans.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting environmental site assessments of the two sites; and
- Preparing cleanup and/or due care plans.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.